



National Housing
Conference 2022

LGBTIQ – housing journeys

Fiona York

Housing for the Aged Action Group

Andrew Rogers

Housing for the Aged Action Group



Older LGBTI housing and homelessness

Fiona York, Executive Officer

Andrew Rogers, LGBTI Reference Group

Housing for the Aged Action Group

About Housing for the Aged Action Group

- › Community organisation with over 600 members, mainly from Victoria, increasingly Australia-wide
 - › Our “Home at Last” Service (based in Victoria)
 - › Information, referral and outreach service for people aged 50 years+ who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness
 - › Aged Care System Navigator
 - › Early intervention and prevention
 - › National advocacy – National Alliance of Seniors for Housing (NASH) – focus on influencing decision-makers to address housing for older people and combatting ageism
 - › www.older tenants.org.au
-

Our Older LGBTI Housing project

Summary of our work to date:

- › Steering Committee comprising of LGBTI organisations with a focus on older people
 - › Report: “Out of the Closet, Out of Options: Older LGBTI people at risk of homelessness” August 2020
 - › Joint advocacy with our partners
 - › July 2021, we achieved Rainbow Tick accreditation, only the second homelessness service in Australia to achieve this milestone
 - › Community reference group – 11 older members of the LGBTI community meet regularly to inform our work
-

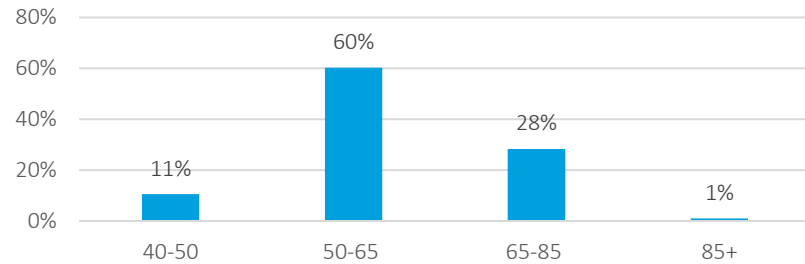
What research is out there?

AAG Rapid Evidence Assessment: LGBTI Ageing Research on Housing Needs and Preferences (Dr Sandra South and Tonye Szebedeki)

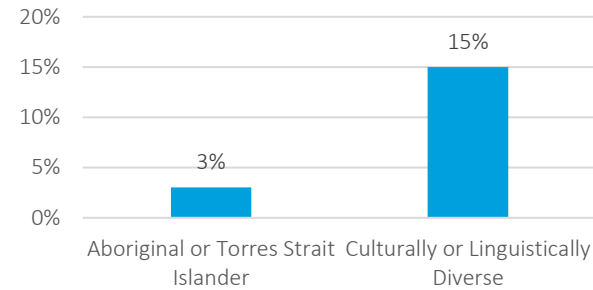
- › Academic and grey literature about LGBTI people and ageing between 2008-2018
 - › Only four Australian & NZ publications, main types were opinion pieces, descriptive studies and explorations of relationships
 - › Lesbian, gay and bisexual people were the most commonly studied; very few Trans and Gender Diverse
 - › Housing: topics were research issues, discrimination and LGBTI-specific needs
 - › **Key message:** High quality research evidence is needed to show what works and does not work to meet older LGBTI people's housing needs and preferences
-

Research Findings: Who we surveyed (228 people)

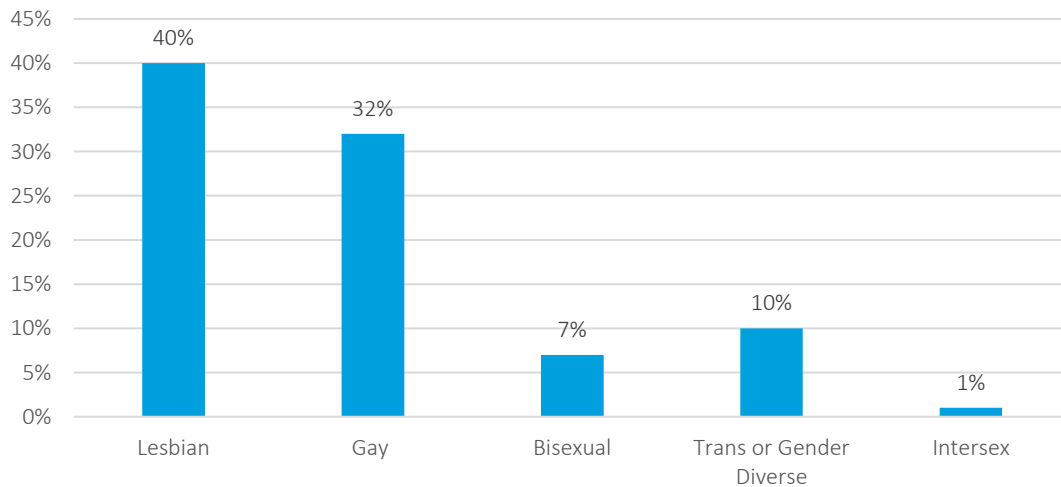
Age of Participants



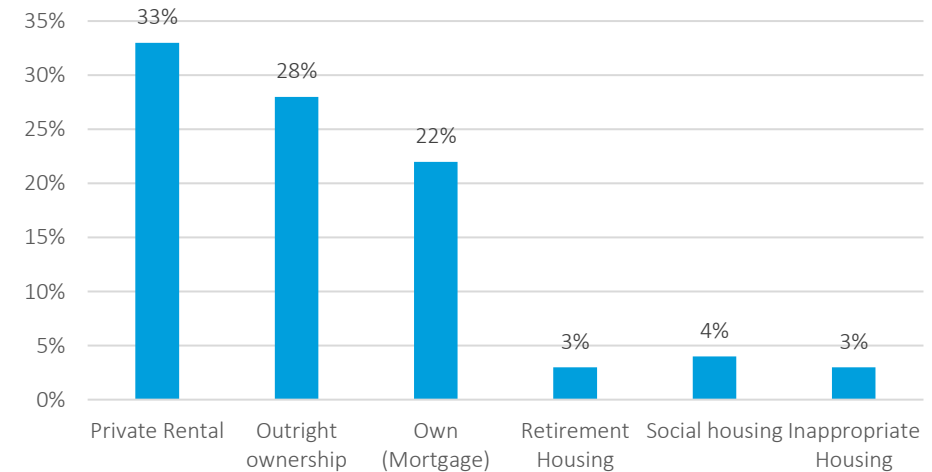
LGBTI Diversity



Percentage of Respondents: LGBTI Status



Housing Tenure



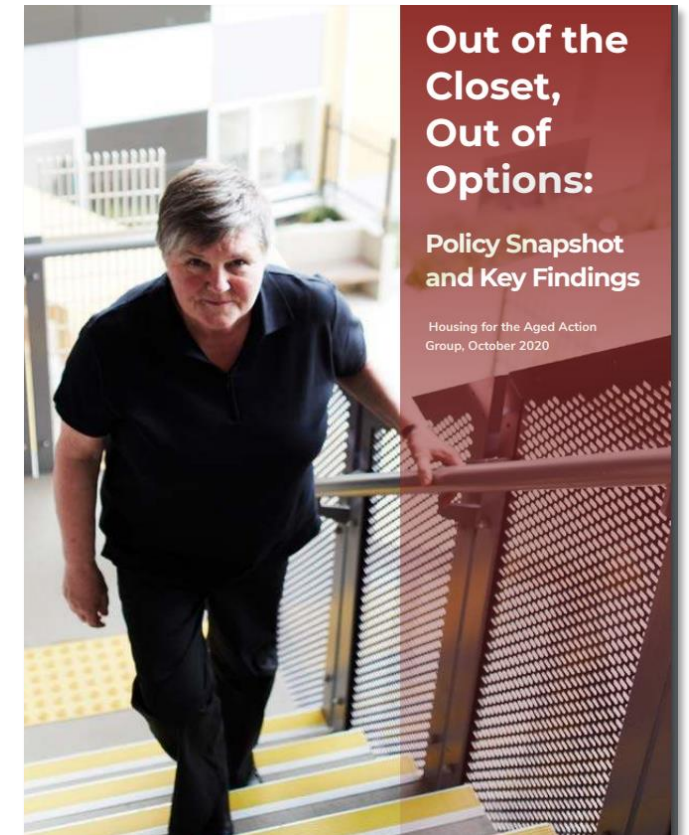
Research Findings: Results

Self-reported levels of homelessness higher than general population:

- › 40% of participants have experienced homelessness
- › 16 % currently at risk of homelessness.

Risk Factors

- › Low rates of homeownership
- › Living in Private rental
- › Living alone
- › Living with a Disability and in caring roles:
- › Living in unconventional housing arrangements
- › Don't know where to go for help or what support services are available



LGBTI Lived Experience of being at risk of homelessness

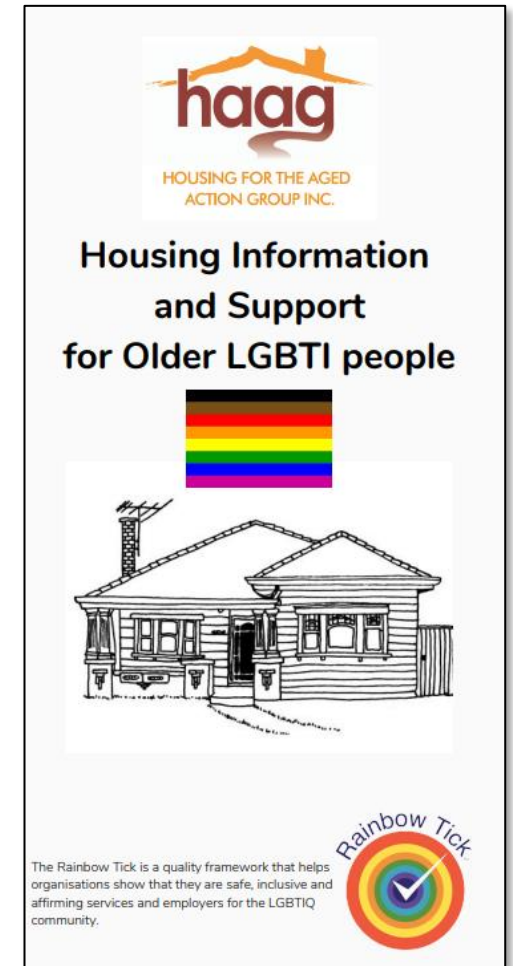
Key messages to engage with older LGBTI people

Informed by our LGBTI community reference group

- › Building trust and show cultural safety – be aware of historical discrimination
 - › Reaching people who are not “out”
 - › Understanding risk factors
 - › Addressing internal ageism
 - › Destigmatise the issue
 - › “Older LGBTI people’s pathway to homelessness is not an individual issue, it is a consequence of long-term systemic issues”
-

Challenges

- › **Funding** – we have struggled to find funding for this project, and have relied on small grants and donations.
- › Lack of affordable housing appropriate for older LGBTI people
- › LGBTIQ+ sector is youth-focused; aged care system and homelessness system is not necessarily culturally safe for older LGBTI people (although this is improving)



The poster features the logo for 'haag HOUSING FOR THE AGED ACTION GROUP INC.' at the top. Below the logo is the title 'Housing Information and Support for Older LGBTI people' in bold black text. A rainbow flag is positioned below the title. At the bottom of the poster is a line drawing of a single-story house with a chimney and a porch. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for 'Rainbow Tick' which contains a checkmark. To the left of this logo is a short paragraph of text.

haag
HOUSING FOR THE AGED
ACTION GROUP INC.

**Housing Information
and Support
for Older LGBTI people**

The Rainbow Tick is a quality framework that helps organisations show that they are safe, inclusive and affirming services and employers for the LGBTIQ community.

Housing for the Aged Action Group

www.older tenants.org.au

(03) 9654 7389

Home at Last: 1300 765 178

